

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A show-through is removed as follows. Resolution of the color image is reduced and the color coordinate system is transferred to a one having a high independence. Then, edge intensity is calculated, edge-detection is performed. Then, color threshold processing is performed on a region except the edge to estimate a background color image, and the show-through removed image is synthesized. Edge difference image is calculated from respective edge intensity of the original image and the show-through removed image, any portion where the image is degraded due to inadequate processing is detected, a scale for processing (the size of a window) around such portion is reduced and the same processing is performed again. A show-through portion is then identified by calculating a difference between the show-through removed image and the reduced original image, the show-through portion is removed, and the image is printed.